

CLAIMS

1. A method for assaying for cAMP in a sample, said method comprising contacting a sample with an unknown cAMP content with a polypeptidic cAMP binding agent and optionally with a labelled cAMP and detecting conjugates of cAMP or labelled cAMP and said binding agent, characterized in that said binding agent comprises functional cAPK cAMP B-binding sites only.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said binding agent has disabled A-binding sites.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said binding site is an RI α B-site.
4. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said labelled cAMP is labelled at the 8-position by iodine-125.
5. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said labelled cAMP is attached to a substrate surface at the 8-position.
6. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said cAMP conjugates are detected using surface plasmon resonance.
7. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said labelled cAMP is labelled with tritium.
8. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said binding site is capable of binding cAMP with a K_D of less than 300% of that of the site in native human cAPK.
9. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims

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wherein said binding site is capable of binding cAMP with a K_D of less than 110% of that of the site in native human cAPK.

- 5 10. A kit for a cAMP assay, said kit comprising a polypeptidic primary binding agent capable of binding cAMP; optionally, a labelled cAMP; and optionally a secondary binding agent; characterized in that said primary binding agent comprises functional cAPK cAMP B-binding sites only.
- 10 11. A polypeptidic cAMP binding agent which comprises functional cAPK cAMP B-binding sites only, and compositions and items comprising said binding agent.
- 15 12. cAMP labelled at the 8-position by iodine-125, and compositions thereof.
- 20 13. The use of cAMP labelled at the 8-position by iodine-125 in a method of assaying for cAMP.
- 25 14. The use of cAMP 8-attached to a substrate surface in a method of assaying for cAMP.
- 30 15. A method for assaying for a cyclic nucleotide or cyclic nucleotide analog, said method comprising contacting said sample with a polypeptidic binding agent capable of binding said cyclic nucleotide or cyclic nucleotide analog and optionally also with a labelled competitor species capable of binding to said binding agent, and detecting conjugates of said binding agent with said cyclic nucleotide or cyclic nucleotide analog or said competitor species, characterized in that said binding agent comprises functional cAPK cAMP B-binding sites only.
- 35 16. A kit for an assay for a cyclic nucleotide or

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cyclic nucleotide analog, said kit comprising a polypeptidic primary binding agent capable of binding said cyclic nucleotide or cyclic nucleotide analog; optionally, a labelled competitor species capable of binding to said binding agent; and optionally a

5 secondary binding agent; characterized in that said primary binding agent comprises functional cAPK cAMP B-binding sites only.